



Modern Foreign Languages Faculty Curriculum Philosophy

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.” –Nelson Mandela

The study of Modern Foreign Languages at Biddick Academy is an important part of our pupils' education. Languages are part of the cultural richness of our society and the world in which we live and work. Learning languages contributes to mutual understanding, a sense of global citizenship and personal fulfilment. Pupils learn to appreciate different countries, cultures, communities and people. The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill for education, employment and leisure in both this country and throughout the world. In today's world, knowledge of a foreign language is often very useful, sometimes essential. It is necessary that our students can compete successfully when searching for employment. Many firms are now multinational and promotion can depend upon the ability to speak another language. Language learners have access to a vast network of international opportunities in fashion, science, design, theatre, retail, hospitality and business.

Teachers in the MFL department have a passion for language learning, and sound subject knowledge. We aim to blend all four competencies into lessons. Target language will be used in an accessible way to ensure immersion into to the target language. All lessons will include elements of interleaving and retrieval practice to enable learners to reflect on what they have learnt, allowing them to know more and remember more. Work completed by students will be marked and checked for understanding, identify misconceptions and provide accurate, clear feedback. Teachers will respond and adapt their teaching as necessary. Assessment is focused on listening, speaking, reading and writing - competencies which are learnt, practised and embedded into language lesson routine. Extracurricular clubs and trips provide opportunities for all students to immerse themselves in the lifestyle and culture of the target language country, as well as those of other countries. Teachers have high expectations of all students to ensure students are independent learners who take pride in their work. Teachers provide a safe, engaging environment for learning through classroom positive relationships.

We believe that languages study at Biddick Academy should:

- Enable students to travel and communicate with people
- Be inclusive and encourage respect for ourselves and others
- Provide the support to build character and resilience
- Help students gain confidence
- Provide a useful skill for future training and readiness for employment opportunities
- Improve the students' knowledge of the English language and deepen their literacy skills
- Make a difference to how students' see the world and how the world sees them – promoting curiosity
- Provide a valuable, sometimes essential, skill when applying for University and other forms of Higher Education
- Develop higher order thinking skills such as reasoning, deducing and inference
- Be inclusive and supportive
- Be engaging and appreciative of culture, to spark students' curiosity
- Support all students in developing their confidence and mastery in all 4 competencies
- Provide students with the foundations to study a language post 16
- Provide students with the foundations to learn other languages in the future